



Nurses in Schools

The roles and responsibilities of school nurses, in special education and beyond.

Laura Poe, R.N., M.S.

Utah Division of Professional Licensing

Lisa Arbogast, M.Ed, J.D.

Utah State Office of Education

STATUTES AND RULES

- Title 53A State System of Public Education
- Chapter 11 Students in Public Schools
- Title 58 Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
- Chapter 31b Nurse Practice Act
- Administrative Rule R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

The Role of School Nurses

- Vision screening
- Check for lice
- Scoliosis screening
- Maturation program
- Attend to injuries

Role of School Nurses cont.

- Health exams – medical consultations
- Coordinates & provides training for the administration of medication
- IEP team member
- Provides educational & nursing services to better protect against risks to health & safety

58-31b Nurse Practice Act

- 58-31b-102(14) Practice of Nursing means:
 - Assisting individuals or groups to maintain or attain optimal health, implementing a strategy of care to accomplish defined goals and evaluation responses to care and treatment.
 - Based upon principles of the biological, physical, behavior, and social sciences, and includes: ...

Practice of Nursing cont.

- Providing health counseling and teaching;
- Collaborating with health care professionals on aspects of the health care regimen; and
- Delegating nurse interventions that may be performed by others.

R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (14) Delegation means transferring to delegates the authority to perform a selected nursing task in a selected situation. The delegating nurse retains accountability for the delegation.

R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (16) Diabetes medical management plan (DMMP) means an individualized plan that describes the health care services that the student is to receive at school. The DMMP shall be incorporated into the student's IHP.

R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (21) Individualized Health Plan (IHP) means a plan for managing the health needs of a specific student, written and reviewed at least annually by a school nurse. The IHP is developed by a nurse ... to guide school personnel in the care of a student with medical needs. The plan shall be based on the student's practitioner's orders for the administration of medication or treatments for the student, or the student's DMMP.

R156-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (39) School means any private, or public institution of primary or secondary education, including charter schools, pre-school, kindergarten, and special education programs.

RI 56-31b Nurse Practice Act Rule

- 102 Definitions:
 - (40) Supervision means the provision of guidance and review by a licensed nurse for the accomplishment of a nursing task or activity, including the provision for the initial direction of the task, periodic inspection of the actual act of accomplishing the task or activity, and evaluation of the outcome.

Delegation of Nursing Tasks

RI 56-31b-701

- Why is delegation so concerning???
- (1) The nurse delegating task(s) retains the accountability for the appropriate delegation of tasks and for the nursing care of the student. The licensed nurse shall not delegate any task requiring the specialized knowledge, judgment and skill of a licensed nurse to an unlicensed person.

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall:


- Verify and evaluate the orders;
- Perform a nursing assessment;
- Act within the area of the nurse's responsibility;
- Act within the nurse's knowledge, skills and abilities;
- Determine whether the task can be safely performed by an unlicensed person or if it requires a licensed hcp;

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall: cont.

- Determine that a reasonable and prudent nurse would delegate under the same circumstances;
- Determine that the task being delegated is consistent with the health and safety of the student;
- Verify that the delegatee has the competence to perform the delegated task prior to performing it;

The nurse who is delegating a nursing task shall: cont.

- Provide instruction and direction;
- Provide ongoing supervision and evaluation;
- Explain the task to the delegatee and that the delegated task is limited to the identified student within the identified time frame;
- Instruct the delegatee how to intervene in any foreseeable risks; and
- Establish a system for ongoing monitoring of the delegatee.



Nursing tasks to be delegated shall meet the following criteria:

- Be considered routine care for the student;
- Pose little potential hazard for the student;
- Be performed with a predictable outcome for the student;
- Be administered according to a previously developed plan of care; and
- Not inherently involve nursing judgment which cannot be separated from the procedure.

The Golden Rule of Delegation

- If the nurse, upon review of the student condition, complexity of the task, ability of the proposed delegatee and other criteria as deemed appropriate by the nurse, determines that the proposed delegatee cannot safely perform the task, the nurse **shall not** delegate the task to that delegatee.

Delegation of Nursing Tasks in a School Setting RI56-31b-701a

- Any task being delegated by the school nurse shall be identified within a current IHP. The IHP is limited to a specific delegatee for a specific time frame.
- Any unlicensed person who administers medication to a student as a delegatee of a school nurse, must receive training from a school nurse at least annually.

Delegating in the School Setting, cont.

- The action of a medication shall determine if the drug is appropriate to delegate the administration to an unlicensed person. Any medication with known, frequent side effects that can be life threatening shall not be delegated.

Delegating in the School Setting, cont.

- Medications that require the student's vital signs or oxygen saturation to be monitored before, during or after administration of the drug shall not be administered by an unlicensed person.

Delegating in the School Setting, cont.

- A nurse working in a school setting may not delegate the administration of the first dose of a new medication or a dosage change.

Delegating in the School Setting, cont.

- A nurse may not delegate the administration of any medication which requires nursing assessment or judgment prior to or immediately after administration.

Delegating in the School Setting, cont.

- The routine provision of scheduled or correction dosage of insulin and the administration of glucagon in an emergency situation, as prescribed by the practitioner's order or specified in the IHP:
 - Are not actions that require nursing assessment or judgment prior to administration; and
 - May be delegated to a delegatee. Insulin and glucagon injections by the delegatee shall only occur when the delegatee has followed the guidelines of the IHP.

Administration of Medication 53A-11-601 through 53A-11-605

- Prerequisites for immunity from liability
 - LEA must develop policies and procedures but only after consultation with Dept. of Health and School Nurse:
 - Designation of volunteer employee to administer;
 - Proper identification and safekeeping of medication;
 - Volunteer trained by school nurse;
 - Maintenance of records of administration; and
 - Notification to school nurse of medications to be administered.

Administration of Medication

53A-11-601 through 53A-11-605

- Medication may only be administered to a student if...
 - Current, signed written request for administration during school hours from parent or guardian.
 - Prescription, detailed instructions and medical necessity from health care provider.
 - Authorization for administration may be withdrawn by the LEA at any time after notice to parent or guardian.
 - No civil or criminal liability for:
 - Adverse reaction; or
 - Discontinuing administration.
 - If personnel in substantial compliance with prescription from health care provider.

Self Administration of Asthma Medication

53A-11-602

- Public school **shall** permit a student to possess & self-administer asthma medication if...
 - Student's parent or guardian signs a statement:
 - Authorizing self-administration of the medication; and
 - Acknowledging student is responsible for, and capable of self-administration.
 - Student's health care provider written statement:
 - Medically appropriate for student to self-administer and be in possession of medication at all times; and
 - Name of the medication.

Glucagon 53A-11-603

- Glucagon authorization is a signed statement from a parent or guardian of a student with diabetes that...
 - Certifies glucagon has been prescribed;
 - Requests the school identify and train school personnel, who volunteer, in the administration of glucagon;
 - Training to be provided by school nurse or other qualified, licensed medical professional.
 - School personnel who provide or receive training and act in good faith are not civilly or criminally liable for any act taken or not taken under this section.

Diabetes Medication

53A-11-604

- Public school **shall** permit a student to possess &/or self-administer diabetes medication if...
 - Student's parent or guardian signs a statement:
 - Authorizing student to possess and/or self-administer diabetes medication; and
 - Acknowledging student is responsible for, and capable of possessing and/or self-administration.
 - Student's health care provider written statement:
 - Medically appropriate for student to possess and/or self-administer and be in possession of medication at all times; and
 - Name of medication.

Medical Recommendations

53A-11-605

- School Personnel in this Section means any school district or charter school employee, including licensed, part-time, contract, and non-licensed employees.
- School personnel **may**:
 - Provide information & observations to a student's parent or guardian;
 - Communicate information & observations between school personnel;

Medical Recommendations cont.

- School personnel **may**: cont.
 - Refer to other school personnel;
 - Consult or use other health care professionals in the event of an emergency;
 - Exercise their authority relating to the placement within the school or readmission; and
 - Complete a behavioral health evaluation form if requested by parent/guardian.

Medical Recommendations cont.

- School personnel **shall**:
 - Report suspected child abuse;
 - Comply with applicable state and local health dept. laws, rules, and policies; and
 - Conduct evaluation & assessments consistent with IDEA.

Medical Recommendations cont.

- School personnel **may not**: cont.
 - Require a student to take or continue to take a psychotropic medication as a condition for attending school;
 - Recommend to parent/guardian child take or continue to take psychotropic medications;
 - Recommend to a parent/guardian to seek or use a type of psychiatric or psychological treatment for a child; ...

What is a Health Care Plan and Who Needs One??

- Developed by the school nurse in collaboration with the appropriate school team, to address the unique health needs of the student.



Individualized Health Care Plan

- Background information/nursing evaluation:
 - Brief medical history;
 - Special health care needs;
 - Psychosocial concerns;
 - Student and family strengths; and
 - Academic profile
- Health care procedures and interventions;

Health Care Plan cont.

- Designated personnel in the school (e.g. school nurse, back-up personnel) who have been trained to deal with an emergency;
- A summary of the student's medical condition and needs that may need to be on file at the local hospital emergency room, if indicated;
- Preferred hospital emergency room;

Health Care Plan cont.

- A written plan with emergency numbers of the family, physician, and emergency personnel; and
- A formal, documented procedure to review the plan with ALL personnel on a regular basis (the health care plan should be reviewed and revised annually or as the student's condition changes).

School Nurses and Special Education

(In other words, when might your school nurse be helpful?)

- Child Find Responsibilities

School Nurses and Special Education

(In other words, when might your school nurse be helpful?)

- 13 Categories of eligibility under the IDEA
 - Autism
 - Deaf/blindness
 - Developmental Delay
 - Emotional Disturbance
 - Hearing Impairment/Deafness
 - Intellectual Disability
 - Multiple Disabilities

School Nurses and Special Education

(In other words, when might your school nurse be helpful?)

- 13 Categories of eligibility under the IDEA (continued)
 - Orthopedic Impairment
 - Other Health Impairment
 - Specific Learning Disabilities
 - Speech/Language Impairment
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Visual Impairment (including blindness)

When might you need your nurse?

All of the above

- Utah Special Education Rules Section II.
F.1(e)(3) (5) Evaluation Procedures
 - (3) The LEA must ensure that the student is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status and motor abilities.
 - (5) The evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the student's special education and related services needs, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category in which the student has been classified.

Medical and developmental history required.

- Autism
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- How can your nurse help???

What about other IDEA eligible students???

- Is your nurse a required member of the IEP team?
- Is your nurse a necessary member of the team?
- Is your nurse a beneficial member of the team?

What is a Health Care Plan and Who Needs One?

- IDEA Eligible Students
- 504 Students
- Other Students

SOMETIMES

Scenarios

- Diastat administration
- DNR orders
- Diabetes
- Transportation
- Epi-pen
- Asthma
- Etc.



HIPAA and FERPA

Confidentiality and Communication

- HIPAA
- FERPA
- Why is communication important



Proper Procedures and Forms

QUESTIONS ????

- RESOURCES:
 - www.dopl.utah.gov
 - www.schools.utah.gov